

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina has long been concerned with the health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, chronic lung diseases, known collectively as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, are the fourth leading cause of death in North Carolina and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 4,000 North Carolinians died from COPD in 2007 and, nationally, over 120,000 Americans die from this disease each year; and

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a leading cause of disability in the U.S. and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, more than 12 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with some form of COPD and another 12 million people with the diseases are undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease currently costs the United States an estimated \$32 billion a year and those costs are rising steadily; and

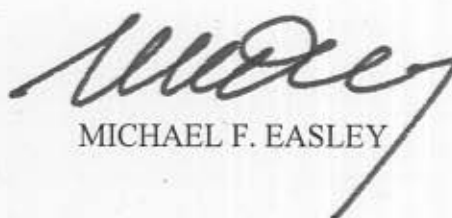
WHEREAS, the cost of COPD hospitalizations alone was more than \$358 million in North Carolina in 2006, which does not include other costs such as lost wages or lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, awareness, early detection and treatment are crucial in the prevention or slowing of the spread of lung disease in this country; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of North Carolina deserve the opportunity to grow, thrive, be healthy and be informed and aware of their respiratory health and of the factors that affect that health;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina do hereby proclaim November 2008, as "**CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina and urge all citizens to help raise awareness about the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and the serious effects associated with the disease.



  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capital on the twenty-second day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.